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**Every Day Living In Panama**

Many people might wonder if life is different in Panama. It’s really not that different than where we live, America. When people first meet, they usually shake hands like we do. When people are close they give each other light kisses on the cheek. Men touch each other’s arms/elbows. Some common gestures are common to America too. People nod and give firm handshakes. Women hug and kiss each other. When trying to hail a cab, you should put your hand out, with your palm facing down and fingers curled in. That isn’t so different from hailing a cab in America, where you just stick your hand out. Also in Panama, American gestures will be understood.

How do people dress in Panama? A traditional way to dress for women is a Pollera. A Pollera is made up of a blouse and a skirt. The skirt has two layers. There are three types of Polleras- a casual Pollera, a formal Pollera, and a wedding Pollera. Another type of dress people wear is the Enagua. It’s a light dress that can keep you cool during the day, and keep you warm during the night. They are simple dresses with patterns. The patterns are pretty simple with pyramids, diamonds, or zigzagged waves. The main point that people want with their clothing in Panama is to keep them warm during the night, and cool during the day.

Traditions for marriage in Panama are different than in America. In Panama, the groom gives the bride 13 gold coins. This symbolizes that the groom is ready to take on marriage and ready to take care of the bride. That is like in Judaism both the bride and the groom sign the Kutuba to show that they will take care of each other.